

DSO5: Improve the skills of the population through excellent further education and world-class universities, to build a more economically competitive, socially mobile and cohesive society

5.1 597,000 people of working age to achieve a first level 1 or above literacy qualification between 2008 and 2011 and; 390,000 people of working age to achieve a first entry-level 3 or above numeracy qualification between 2008 and 2011

Progress:

a. **First level 1 or above literacy** - too early to formally assess progress, although trend data indicates strong growth in adults achieving literacy qualifications. Steady expansion of achievements since 2002/03, with Level 1 literacy achievements up from 42,000 in 2002/03 to 219,000 in 2007/08.

b. **Entry level 3 or above numeracy** - too early to formally assess progress; steady expansion of achievements since 2002/03, with achievements up from 3,000 in 2002/03 to 93,000 in 2007/08.

5.2 To increase to 79% the proportion of working age adults qualified to at least level 2 by 2011

Progress: since Q4 2001, the proportion of working age adults qualified to at least full level 2 has increased from 65% to 72.6% as at Q3 2009. The annual increase from Q3 2008 to Q3 2009 of 1.8 percentage points is near to where we would expect the trend to be. However, this level of change is higher than in recent quarters and it is too early to say whether this will be sustained in subsequent quarters.

5.3 To increase to 56% the proportion of working age adults qualified to at least level 3

Progress: since Q4 2001, the proportion of working age adults qualified to at least full level 3 has increased from 44.7% to 51.9% as at Q3 2009. The annual increase from Q3 2008 to Q3 2009 of 1.5 percentage points is near to where we would expect the trend to be. However, this change is higher than in recent quarters and it is too early to say whether this will be sustained in subsequent quarters

5.4 130,000 to complete the full Apprenticeships Framework in 2010/11

Progress: 143,400 completions were achieved in 2008/09, exceeding the PSA target two years early. Completion rates have increased across all age groups to a record high of 71%. For the period August 2008 – November 2009, there were 51,900 completions, 12% above profile, and all ages were above profile.

5.5 To increase to 36% the proportion of working age adults qualified to at least level 4 by 2014, with an interim milestone of 34% by 2011

Progress: since Q4 2001, the proportion of working age adults qualified to at least level 4 has increased from 25.2% to 32.4% at Q3 2009

5.6 Increase participation in Higher Education towards 50% of those aged 18-30, with growth of at least a percentage point every 2 years to 2010/11

Progress: We know (via UCAS) that accepted applicants to full-time HE have increased by 7.4% for 2008/09. This suggests further HEIPR growth in 2008/09 as entrants recover post the introduction of fees (in 2006/07.)